

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, and 27 were pending in the present application. Applicants have amended claim 7 to correct an error in punctuation. Applicants submit that this amendment adds no new matter. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, and 27 will be pending.

Allowed Claims

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1, 3-10, and 27.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the patentability of claims 12-16 in light of the foregoing comments. Claims 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Astle *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,713,985, hereinafter “Astle”). Without acquiescing to the arguments presented in the Office action concerning Astle, the Applicants do not believe that Astle teaches Applicants’ claimed invention. Claim 12 recites “a first engagement piece on a first wall that is identical to a first engagement piece on a second wall.” However, Astle does not teach a first engagement piece on a first wall that is identical to a first engagement piece on a second wall. Astle only teaches a device with male members or edges for interlocking (reference characters 18 and 19 of Figures 1 and 2) on one side of the device and female members or grooves for interlocking (reference characters 20 and 21 of Figures 1 and 2) on the other side of the device. In contrast to Applicants’ claimed invention, Astle does not teach a device with a male member present on one side that is identical to a male member on the other side. Nor does Astle teach a device with a female member on one side that is identical to a female member on the other side. Accordingly, Astle does not provide the claimed element and fails as an anticipatory reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 12, and claims 13-16 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the PTO Form-1449 submitted on July 1, 2004. Applicants respectfully request that the initialed PTO Form-1449 accompany the advisory action that should issue in response to this paper.

Power of Attorney

Accompanying this paper is a Power of Attorney by the Assignee of the Entire Interest of this application which revokes all prior powers of attorney and grants a new power of attorney to the customer number with which the undersigned attorney is associated.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-10, 12-16 and 27 are in condition for allowance and request swift and favorable action. If needed, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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